

Career ideas for students & graduates

- Animal & Plant Sciences

Getting started

Want some ideas about what to do with your subject? Start off by investigating the Careers with my Degree section of the Careers Service website: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/aps. On this website, you'll find information about *What graduates do* after their various APS degrees at Sheffield including case studies. Also see the section *Your options*, which provides a broader picture of what graduates could go on to do as well as useful downloads that contain more information about a range of careers including research, environment and conservation plus others.

To generate ideas more personal to you have a go at 'What jobs would suit me?' which you can link to from the *Understanding yourself* section of the above website. Take your time completing the online questionnaire to generate more meaningful suggestions of what jobs might suit your interests, skills and motivations. If you need help thinking about your skills, interests, personality and motivation, have a go at the 'Profiling for Success' activities in the *Understanding yourself* section or speak to a Careers Adviser. For more information on getting started: pick up a copy of 'See the Bigger Picture' from the Careers Service or download a copy: www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/bigger_picture/see_the_bigger_picture.pdf

What do Sheffield's APS graduates do? (And resources to find out more)

Each year, the Careers Service collects information about what graduates from this University are doing 6 months after graduation. Although this is only a snap-shot in time, the information collected gives an indication of the range of employment options open to you as a graduate. Below are some of the more common destinations for APS graduates, along with some useful links for you to find out more about jobs and careers in these areas.

Careers in research & the wider lab environment – the starting point for individuals hoping to pursue a high-level career in research is usually a Masters and/or PhD, which will enable them to develop the necessary in-depth knowledge and research experience (ask your tutor about MSc, MRes and PhDs or see

www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/flipbooks/pgstudyresearch/files/assets/basic-html/index.html#1). Some new graduates go straight into lab-based roles such as research assistants, research technicians, trainee scientists and analysts. Potential employers include: Universities; charities and trusts; schools and colleges; plant science research institutes; plant growers, food producers and manufacturers; agricultural consultancies and policy advisers; environmental testing companies; utilities; animal health and nutrition or animal behaviour. Some work for chemical and process industries or biotechnology companies, especially SMEs whilst others go into Government, local councils and other public bodies. Others look to broaden their career ideas by working for pharmaceutical companies or the NHS. See the Careers Service information sheet '**Careers in a Research Environment – Information for Animal and Plant Scientists**' for more details: www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/careersdegree/aps_researchcareers.pdf.

Environment / conservation – eg, ecologist, ecological surveyor, environmental consultant, conservation worker, zoo assistant, trainee park ranger, biodiversity assistant, policy & education assistant (NB: conservation-related roles in particular are often voluntary in the first instance). Useful websites include www.lantra.co.uk/careers which includes graduate and non-graduate level jobs. Also see the Careers Service information sheet '**Environmental & Conservation Careers**' for more detail on job types and useful links:

www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/pdf/envtconcareers.pdf.

Working with animals - Careers in research, ecology and conservation provide opportunities to work with animals (see above). Other career areas of interest might include animal technician (www.iat.org.uk); animal welfare (www.dogpages.org.uk; www.bva-awf.org.uk); animal/pet care (www.petcare.org.uk); working for an animal / wildlife charity (eg, www.rspca.org.uk; www.nassl.org.uk; www.wildlifetrusts.org; www.worldanimalprotection.org.uk); zoos (lantra.co.uk/careers; www.biaza.org.uk; www.abwak.org); veterinary nursing and surgery (www.rcvs.org.uk; www.bsava.com); animal behaviour (www.apbc.org.uk/career.htm; www.apdt.co.uk; www.scas.org.uk).

Working with plants - If you are looking for something outside of research, ecology or conservation, alternative careers include: agricultural or estate business management (www.face-online.org.uk; www.cla.org.uk); plant



nurseries & garden centres (www.the-hta.org.uk) and parks, gardens and local amenities (www.sapca.org.uk; www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council); landscape architecture (www.bealandscapearchitect.com)

Teaching – Secondary teaching is the obvious option for those wishing to specialise in science but teaching at primary or FE level is also an option: getintoteaching.education.gov.uk; www.feAdvice.org.uk. HE lecturing requires a PhD: www.prospects.ac.uk/higher_education_lecturer_job_description.htm - talk to your tutor about this.

Using your science in other ways –

Science Communication (www.britishecienceassociation.org) **Scientific Publishing or Scientific Journalism** (www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_publishing_and_journalism.htm) **Scientific Writing**

(www.kent.ac.uk/careers/workin/sciencewriting.htm) **Scientific Broadcasting**

(www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_media.htm) **Museums** (www.museumssociation.org/careers) **Education**

Officer (www.prospects.ac.uk/environmental_education_officer_related_jobs.htm) **Bio or Health Informatics**

(www.nhs.uk/careers/nhs.uk/explore-by-career/health-informatics; www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmmedinformdecismak).

Clinical Data Management (www.acdm.org.uk) **Clinical Trials Co-ordinator** (www.icr-global.org/careers;

careers.abpi.org.uk/working-in-the-industry/research/clinical-studies/Pages/default.aspx) **Regulatory Affairs**

(www.prospects.ac.uk/regulatory_affairs_officer_job_description.htm) **Scientific Sales**

(careers.abpi.org.uk/working-in-the-industry/commercial/Pages/default.aspx) **Health Economics**

(www.prospects.ac.uk/case_studies_economist_case_study_1.htm). **Policy and Campaigning** (www.icsu.org;

sciencecampaign.org.uk) **Patent Attorney or Patent Examiner** (www.insidecareers.co.uk/professions/patent-attorneys;

www.prospects.ac.uk/patent_examiner_job_description.htm) **Solicitor / Barrister** inc. Intellectual

Property (www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/law) **Manufacturing and Production** inc. planning, co-

ordinating and managing (www.kent.ac.uk/careers/workin/production.htm) health and safety management

(www.iosh.co.uk) quality control (www.thecqi.org) or supply chain / logistics (www.careersinsupplychain.org) (where

typical employers include pharmaceutical companies, chemical manufacturers, health and household products and

food production companies) **Health Service Management** (www.nhs.uk/careers/nhs.uk/explore-by-career/management)

Civil Service science-related policy and admin

(www.prospects.ac.uk/civil_service_administrator_job_description.htm) **Local Government** policy and admin

(www.prospects.ac.uk/local_government_officer_job_description.htm) **Third Sector** working for non-profit

organisations, maybe with a scientific theme, in areas such as fund-raising or admin

(www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_charity_voluntary_work.htm) **Town Planning** (www.rtpi.org.uk/education-and-careers)

or **Transport Planning** (www.tps.org.uk/main/careers)

Something completely different – Around 60% of all graduate jobs are open to graduates of any discipline. A range of employers value science graduates for their analytical skills, logical problem solving and attention to detail. So if you have a flair for something different, go for it! APS graduates from Sheffield regularly go into careers including IT, accountancy, audit, general management, logistics, retail, sales, recruitment, human resources, marketing, media/public relations and events management. For other ideas about what to do with your subject, go to the Careers Service's 'Careers with my degree' web pages: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/aps. Also see Next Steps after a Bioscience degree: www.sebiology.org/education/docs/Next_steps_web.pdf.

Additional ways to explore types of careers

- There are a couple of useful blogs dedicated to careers after biological science, which you may find useful: biosciencecareers.wordpress.com and <https://blogs.jobs.ac.uk>.
- The 'Prospects' website can help you find out about a range of occupations, see www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm. This includes information such as job descriptions, salary and conditions, entry requirements, training, career development and case studies. Also see targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors and www.insidecareers.co.uk
- Societies and professional bodies can be a good source of careers information; many have careers pages. Each and every occupational area will normally have at least one society and/or a professional body associated with it – of you aren't sure which society represents the sort of science that interests you, ask your tutor or lecturer for ideas. For other career areas, search for professional bodies via the Trade Association Forum: www.taforum.org (look in the 'Directories' section). This website also carries labour market news.
- The Royal Society of Biology (www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/careers) has a useful careers section for students which includes a 'Make a Difference' set of career ideas that has been compiled with the Royal Society of Biology, British Ecological Society, Society for Experimental Biology, Society for General Microbiology, Biochemical Society, British Pharmacological Society and The Physiological Society.
- For added inspiration, see New Scientist Careers Special: jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/landingpage/1401410893/careers-guide-uk. Also useful are Guardian Careers: www.theguardian.com/careers and Professional Network: www.theguardian.com/guardian-professional

The Careers Service

If you need help getting started, making career decisions, job hunting or seeking further study, book an appointment with a Careers Adviser at the Careers Service, Level 1, 388 Glossop Road, Sheffield.